

Claims 1-8 have been canceled, and claims 9-12 have been amended. Claims 13-14 remain unamended. Claims 15-19 have been canceled, and claims 20-23 have been amended. Claims 24-25 remain unamended. Claims 26-33 have been canceled. Claims 34-35 are unamended, and new claims 36-53 have been added. Thus the pending claims are 9-14, 20-25 and 34-53.

In the office action dated March 14, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 9-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 20-25 and 34-35 were stated to be allowable over the prior art of record.

In his reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, the Examiner stated the prior art does not teach or render obvious both costs of taking the action and trustworthiness of an answer to the action in the specific combinations as claimed in claims 9-14 and 20-21. Applicant partially agrees with the Examiner to the extent that the prior art does not teach or render obvious both costs of taking the action and trustworthiness of an answer to the action as claimed in claims 9-14 and 20-21. The reasons for allowance further state that the prior art does not teach or render obvious both costs of finding an action to the question and trustworthiness of an answer to the question in the specific combination as claimed in claims 22-25. Applicant partially agrees with the Examiner to the extent that the prior art does not teach or render obvious both costs of finding an action to the question and trustworthiness of an answer to the question as claimed in claims 22-25.

Claims 9-14 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and still

includes the specific examples of the respective cost and trustworthiness elements noted in the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Claim 10 depends from claim 9, and the arguments with respect to claim 9 apply to claim 10. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claim 10. Claim 11 as amended is now in independent form and includes the limitations of claim 1 and the specific examples of the respective cost and trustworthiness elements noted in the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11, and the arguments with respect to claim 11 apply to claims 12-14. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claims 12-14.

Independent claim 20 has also been amended, but still includes the specific examples of the respective cost and trustworthiness elements noted in the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Claim 21 depends from claim 20, and the arguments with respect to claim 20 apply to claim 21. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claim 21.

Independent claim 22 has also been amended, but still includes the specific examples of the respective cost and trustworthiness elements noted in the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Claim 23 depends from claim 22, and the arguments with respect to claim 22 apply to claim 23. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claim 23.

New claims 36-40 depend from claim 9, and the arguments with respect to claim 9 apply to claim 36-40. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claims 36-40.

New claims 41-44 depend from claim 11, and the arguments with respect to claim 11 apply to claim 41-44. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claims 41-44.

New claims 45-49 depend from claim 20, and the arguments with respect to claim 20 apply to claim 45-49. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claims 45-49.

New claims 50-53 depend from claim 22, and the arguments with respect to claim 22 apply to claim 50-53. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the additional subject matter of claims 50-53.

Conclusion

In light of the arguments presented above, pending claims 9-12 and 20-23 as amended, pending claims 13-14, 24,25 and 34-35 unamended, and new pending claims 36-53 are in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request a prompt notice of allowance.

Date: *June 14, 2005* Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of Applicant
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